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VOLUME 29, NO. 12 FREE MARCH 12, 1999

Members of the Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra celebrate after being named best new group at the 28th annual Juno Awards March 7. See full coverage on page 20.
Photo by Christine Morgan

'Good deed' completed

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The Social Committee president is a "natural leader."

Lindon Barrett, a second-year student in the Human Relations program, is the winter semester president. The committee was newly created by the English as a Second Language and International students.

Barrett said his involvement is part of his co-op requirement in the Human Relations program.

He said he wants to find out if he can "handle working with international students."

"I wanted to find out for myself if I could work with international students and (also) help with events. I wanted to do a good deed at the same time."

The 21-year-old said he's a "natural leader. I have strong leadership and teacher skills."

Not only is Barrett doing a good deed, but also said he's "gained a lot of experience."

Since he started with the committee a little over a month ago, his "communication skills have improved."

Since Barrett's a "real team player," he said, "If you aren't willing to change when you come into a system, then you'll encounter problems."

When he became president he had a lot of new ideas and a different approach to doing things.

"Some people liked it; some people didn't."

Barrett, who organized the successful Valentine's Day dance, said "it's the first year out of all the dances, the students danced in couples."

The students suggest what they'd like to see as upcoming events, and "I just make calls and arrangements. . . . They tell me what they want to do, and I help get it done."

Barrett said he's trying to organize a trip to a night club in Toronto, a dinner at a restaurant and a cultural pot luck dinner in March.

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AT A GLANCE

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Board elections in April

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

This April, Niagara College students, support and administration staff will go to the polls to elect their representatives for the board of governors.

The nomination call began March 9 and ends March 22.

Each representative must meet the criteria set out by the Internal Elections Committee, who follow guidelines developed by the ministry of education and training and the Council of Regents.

These guidelines have been in place since 1988, said Helen Moscato, executive secretary to the board of governors. It was decided at that time to go from having 16 external board members to having 12 external and four internal, said Moscato.

An external member is someone who isn't part of the college but is a member of the community, while an internal member is a person who either works, teaches or is a student at the college. The difference is that external members are appointed and internal members are elected.

As it is for any election, there are procedures and requirements to be followed by the college and the candidates.

To be eligible as a student, the candidate must be enrolled full or part time in a certificate, diploma or adult training program as of Jan. 1, 1999.

Support staff candidates must be employed by the college full or part time as of Jan. 1, 1999, as a member of the office, clerical, technical, health care, maintenance, building, service, shipping, transportation, cafeteria or nursery staff.

Administrative candidates must be employed by the college full or part time as of Jan. 1, 1999, and not fit the description of a support staff candidate.

The support and administrative representatives will hold their positions on the board for three years beginning Sept. 1. The student representative will hold the position for one year beginning the same date.

Members will lose their position only if they cease to be a member

Please turn to page 2

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Eye On Niagara

Social committee has 'natural leader' for its first president

Continued from page 1

Barrett is spending time at school organizing events and trips but he also took a group of 22 international and English as a Second Language students to Sulfern Lake, north of Toronto. They left Feb. 28 and returned March 3.

Barrett said he couldn't believe there was a waiting list of interested students for the venture.

The students went cross country skiing, played broom ball and ping-pong and went hiking, tubing and tobogganing.

Barrett said the main reason the students chose this trip, rather than going to Montreal or Florida, was to "get a bit more Canadian culture."

Lindon Barrett takes a break from his responsibilities as the Social Committee president.

Photo by Jackie Field

The teacher accompanying the students was Joanne Klassen.

With all the work Barrett does for the international students, he still finds time to be the president and founder of Change The Future program, which he started in 1997.

"I put it together to spread multiculturalism around the college."

Change The Future puts on the fashion show. This year's proceeds will go to the United Way.

The show will take place March 16, at Front 54, in Thorold.

Away from Niagara College, Barrett likes to go "clubbing" and plays on a men's basketball team in Toronto.

Realizing he won't be president next year, Barrett said he's "sad" but may have the opportunity to take a co-op with City-TV, in Toronto.

He said he would be organizing the dancers for the Electric Circuit show.

Being involved with the international students "takes up a lot of time, but I'm happy. . . . I want to give something back to the college."

Motorcycle program's gearing up for next term

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Continuing Education's motorcycle training program is gearing up for another season.

This program instructs beginners in the basics of motorcycle riding.

"I think people have come to recognize the importance of training before riding," says Sue Tallon, Continuing Education's development officer for this program.

She says students are taught proper balancing, braking, clutch control, signal use, shoulder checks, collision avoidance, cornering, gear changing, pattern riding and emergency techniques.

This popular program costs $285 and has been offered since 1983 at Niagara College.

"We had 252 students last year."

Tallon says the program is governed by the Ontario government. All the program instructors have been certified to train by the Canadian Safety Council.

"Our instructors' experience speaks for the success of the program."

The weekend-long 20-hour program includes classroom instruction from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday. On Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and again Sunday between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., students are taught on the motorcycles.

Classroom instruction occurs at the Welland campus in Hennepin Hall, room H-23. Practical training takes place in the Welland campus's parking lots B, C and D.

This year, the program will be offered 13 times throughout the weekends of April 23 to Sept. 12. There is a maximum of 20 students a session.

Tallon says there's a ratio of one teacher to five students. She describes the instructors as "patient, humourous and professional."

The motorcycles used for practical training are supplied by the college and include Honda, Suzuki and Kawasaki products.

April 12-14 elections for Board of Governors' representatives

Continued from page 1

or employee of the college.

What's involved in being a member of the board?

Moscato said board members are expected to attend the meetings held monthly on the third Thursday. They're also asked to do committee work and be present at such things as openings, said Moscato.

"But we're not too hard on the students," she said, adding the reason for this is that students have their studies to concentrate on.

Moscato said they don't normally get a lot of students who want to be on the board.

"I find we'll get three or four. Then, just before the election, a couple drop out."

Candidates wanting to withdraw must do so by March 24. Campaigning begins March 29 and runs until April 11. The election will be held over three days April 12 to 14.

Moscato said it's done this way "because students are often on work placements." Having the election run for three days gives them a chance to vote.

Niagara College
presents
OPEN MIKE
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Let's talk food!
Dan Patterson invites all students and staff to an open forum to discuss options for a new cafeteria at the Welland Campus.
Come with your questions, comments and concerns.
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SIMCOE WING, Second Floor, Room S211, Welland Campus
Join Dan for an open exchange of views and opinion.
"OPEN MIKE" is one of a series of consultations, known as the President's Advisory Forum which take place twice a year, at various campus locations.
NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Flying high graphically

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Shawn Reimer knows all about success.

The 23-year-old St. Catharines resident graduated from Niagara College's Computer Applications in Design course, which is part of the Art and Design Fundamentals-Graphic Design Production program, in April 1998, and is now reaping the benefits of being his own boss.

Reimer Graphics, established in September 1998, has an impressive list of clients, such as the Niagara Falls Canada Visitor and Convention Bureau, the St. Catharines Flying Club and a Niagara-on-the-Lake winery.

Reimer said the graphics firm has another two years' worth of work ahead of it.

He made news last April for designing the winning entry for the Niagara District Airport's first official logo, which can be seen by passersby along Hwy. 55.

Reimer said, "Artists don't learn how to be artists. You're born an artist." He said the program "refined" his skills and taught him more about the industry.

Reimer has taken things into his own hands and uses no formal advertising to promote his business. Instead he relies on word of mouth and makes contacts through church and friends. "In this business it's who you know and who knows you do murals."

That, he said, has been the secret to his "so-called" success.

NIAGARA DISTRICT AIRPORT

SHAWN REIMER

Eye On Niagara

Wet your whistle; then enjoy art

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

A good book, a bottle of wine and thou. Art helps too.

Artists from the Niagara Peninsula exhibited their work to the public at a Beamsville wine store recently.

Magnotta Winery, 4701 Ontario St., in Beamsville, hosted the art exhibition from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 20 and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 21.

Kathy Richardson, Magnotta's Niagara Region operations administrator, said, "I think a lot of the artwork here today is very good. We cover a number of different techniques and a number of different representations. We feel really good about the show."

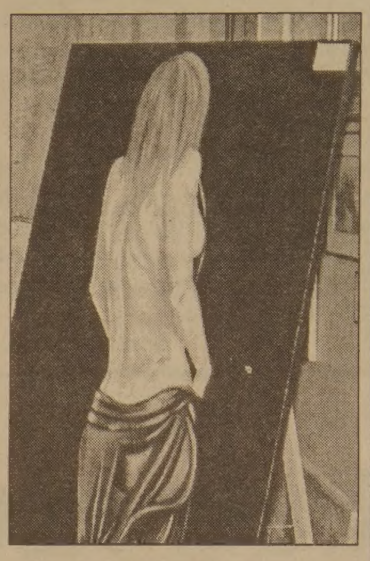
Richardson said because original artwork is used on Magnotta's labels, the management wanted to exhibit corporate artwork to the public when the company moved into its present location in 1993.

She said the local artists became interested and were soon hanging their artwork in Magnotta's gallery.

"It then extended to the Niagara College student body who, last year, did their graduating class show here, a three-day show that was very enjoyable. And, again this year, they intend to come back and have their three-day show."

Richardson said about 150 people viewed the artwork on Saturday and about 80 people viewed it on Sunday.

During the two-day show, three instructors from Niagara College — former students of the college — were demonstrating painting methods and speaking to the public about art.



One of the paintings by James Gielfeldt at the winery

Howard Paton, instructor, handlettering and screen printing, spoke about the three-day art exhibition of the Niagara College students.

"Half a dozen or so students came to me and spoke about putting on an art show. I said I would give them Kathy's name down here at Magnotta's and they could set something up. Kathy has given them a date of April 16 through the 18." He said it wasn't definite yet but they're working at it.

Mark Ricker, instructor, photomechanical screen printing, said, "I'd just like to thank the people at Magnotta Winery. It's great that there's a place where artists can come and work and show their work for free. Magnotta doesn't ask us for any monetary donations. They free up all this space for us. It would be nice if more places opened up like this to artists and gave us a chance to show our stuff."

James Gielfeldt, instructor, illustration, said, "I put a lot of emotion and pride into my work. I really like to draw and paint people. That's where my interests lie. Being here is a great opportunity for artists to show their work. It's great to be out in public so people can see us working on our pieces as we go along."

Magnotta Winery is open seven days a week, Monday to Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark Ricker stands beside his painting entitled View From Above at Magnotta Winery.
Photo by J.W. Brown

Peace of mind helps

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Niagara College counsellor Donna Putman tries to help students find their own way of dealing with their problems and making their lives better.

"There are a billion ways to live on this planet, and we have to find the combination that works best for each of us," she said.

Putman, 44, said it's difficult for students to achieve academically or scholastically unless they have some balance in their lives.

She said, "I know the issues the students come in with, and I can't imagine them dealing with these challenges on their own."

Putman, who was born in Welland, said her method of helping students involves encouraging and supporting them so they can realize their strengths as the chief way of solving their problems.

"If they need more assistance, we, in the counselling department, would refer them to community specialists," she said.

She said these community specialists are people who specialize in addictions, mental disorders, anxiety attacks and financial difficulties.

"Professors often refer to us if they recognize that a student is having difficulties coping with the stresses of college life," Putman said.

"The college is great for helping students solve their own problems and I believe the students have all of the resources to work out their difficulties, so all they need is someone to do it with," she stated.

She said there are five counsellors in the counselling department and three in the Centre for Students with Disabilities.

Putman said the counsellors see more than 6,000 interviewees a year.

Putman, who has been a college counsellor for 12 years, said she began working in the college in a youth program, then moved into an adult literacy program before settling into a counselling position in 1993.

The Port Colborne resident is an ex-teacher with the Niagara South Board of Education.

She advised the college's students to take some time and listen to themselves.

"If you hear yourself saying that you're not coping with college life, then listen to those words and talk to somebody," she ended.

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Editorial

Niagara News

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Unsure of choices

Too many people just don't know what they want to do.

It's amazing how often we hear people say how they hate their academic program and don't want to be working in that field for the rest of their lives. A frequent response we find ourselves saying to them, is "why don't you do something else then?" A great percentage of the time the answer is "I don't know what I want to do."

Then there are those, a few months from graduation, who suddenly realise they can't stand their program and they drop out.

What a waste of time and money.

Many people go to college and take a program just because they think it might be interesting. The end result is, usually, they're starting all over again.

The question is why go to college if you don't know what you want to do there? College is the last steppingstone in learning before we're being sent out into the real world and told to survive.

As we round the bend in the last few weeks of college life, we see we've made the right choices and life will always reflect that. We've had doubts too, but our passion is writing. Therefore, we knew in the long run, no matter where we ended up, we'd always benefit from our experiences in the program.

High school needs to better prepare people for what's at college and help them find their own passions. You can never go wrong, as long as you never regret.

It really comes down to knowing whether you're ready and if the field for which you are getting training is really what you want. If you don't know, don't waste your time at such an expense. You'll just end up starting all over again.

Angela Pickering

Canadian talent ignored

The Juno Awards were held recently in Hamilton. They demonstrated something seriously wrong with Canadian music fans.

Take Barenaked Ladies as an example.

The band became famous here in 1992 with their debut **Gordon**, but a Barenaked Backlash ensued and they couldn't get arrested after that. They spent much of their time building a fanbase in the U.S., where their latest CD, **Stunt**, debuted at No. 3 on the charts.

Suddenly everyone north of the 49th loves these newfound Canadian heroes. The same people who didn't buy their subsequent albums and wouldn't go to shows because "they suck" are now lining up to buy **Stunt**. These people are also the first to proudly proclaim "they're Canadian, y'know."

The Canadian music industry can't afford to have a country full of hypocrites. There's too much talent and not enough recognition to go around.

With the exception of the Tragically Hip, all "stars" absent from the Junos are big mainly because of they have the U.S. stamp of approval.

We have to start making our own stars. Support Canadian artists, and don't wait until they're big down south before you do. You'll miss out on a lot.

Sharilyn Johnson

Winter storm policy

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to students and staff regarding closure of the college due to weather conditions.

While it is rare for the college to close any of its campuses, there are times when unsafe driving conditions make this necessary.

It is the responsibility of the vice-president, administration, to make this decision in consultation with others on the management team.

If the decision to close one or more of the campuses is made early in the morning before the college opens, then every attempt is made to inform all local radio stations by 6:30 a.m. The college also modifies the switchboard message to provide the required information by 6:30 a.m. In addition, all management staff are contacted directly by telephone so that they can make appropriate arrangements in their respective areas of responsibility.

Since weather conditions can dictate that one campus be closed while others remain open, the information provided to radio stations and on the switchboard message will be specific on this.

If the decision to close one or more of the campuses is made after the college opens, students and staff will be informed by an announcement over the public address system. In addition, each college manager will be contacted by telephone so that they can initiate appropriate action in their area, including informing all students and staff of the decision.

I hope this helps to clarify the college's practice on this matter. If you have any suggestions for improvements on the way the college manages this process, feel free to call me at ext. 7653.

Hans van der Slagt
Vice-President, Administration.

Voice your opinion

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.

2. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.

3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

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Correction

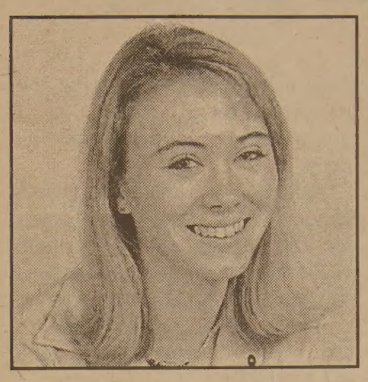
In the Vol. 29, No. 9 edition of the *Niagara News* published Feb. 19, 1999, in the cutline on page 12 an incorrect photographer's credit was given. The credit on the British Methodist Episcopal Church photograph should have read Photo by Rachel Czifra.

It is the policy of Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

The Niagara News accepts advertisements in good faith. We advise that it is in your best interest to investigate offers personally. Publications by this paper should not be taken as an endorsement of the product or service offered.

Viewpoints

St. Patrick more than just a holiday



By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

It's March 17. Everyone is wearing green and shamrocks are everywhere.

For the Irish, today's a national holiday in their country of Ireland, but for the rest of the population, we know it's St. Patrick's Day but don't celebrate it to the same degree.

In 461, March 17 was named St. Patrick's Day because an Irishman named Patrick had died.

Patrick was also known as the Apostle of Ireland. At 16, he was captured by pirates and sold as a slave in Ireland.

While he was a slave it was believed he saw visions of God and six years later he escaped and returned home.

Afterwards Patrick wanted to convert the Irish to Christianity. He started his work in the northern part of Ireland.

It's said he founded more than 300 churches and baptized more than 120,000 people.

Patrick had to overcome many obstacles. At the age of 72, he died on March 17, 461.

Since St. Patrick died, there have been many legends involving him and his powers.

The Irish believe there are no snakes in Ireland because St. Patrick drove them away by beating a drum hard and fast. The snakes couldn't take the noise and headed for the sea.

The legend most recognized is the one about the shamrock.

St. Patrick was preaching about the Holy Trinity. Some people couldn't understand how there was one God in three different people — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Patrick looked down and saw a three-leaf clover. He showed it to his people saying it had one stem but three leaves, just like God, who was in three different people.

Today, the Irish people still celebrate St. Patrick's Day and make a celebration out of it. Some restaurants serve green beer and milkshakes resembling the clover's colour.

It's rare but some people also send St. Patrick's Day cards.

Although North America doesn't celebrate this holiday to the same extent as Valentine's Day or Easter, it's a tradition that will live on through the Irish.

Patrick — Patron Saint of Ireland by Tomie dePaola, is a book written all about St. Patrick and is available in most libraries. It provided most of the the above information.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Kids should grow before becoming parents

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Why are children in such a rush to become parents?

Provincial Social Services Minister Janet Ecker announced on March 6 a new project geared towards young mothers on social assistance.

Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) orders welfare mothers aged 16 and 17 to attend high school and parenting classes as soon as possible after their baby is born or risk losing social assistance.

I agree with the concept, but there are two issues that have to be addressed.

One: Why are so many young girls still getting pregnant in this educated world?

Two: Why would anyone without means of support bring a child into this world?

Ecker is quoted as saying, "A teen parent on welfare can set themselves up to be on and off social assistance for the rest of their life if they don't get their education completed."

An article by Tom Blackwell of Southam Newspapers states agencies that work with teen mothers say the program unfairly assumes they make bad parents and could deprive them of the time needed for bonding.

The first year(s) of bonding between mother and child are the most important for both of them. Without that initial bonding, the mother/child relationship will not evolve into a healthy, conducive one.

How I wish a teenager wanting to get pregnant could look into a crystal ball and see what's in store for her. It's not just the first few years that you nurture your child. This is a process that takes a lifetime, not only yours, but also your child's.

The article quotes Joy Thompson, of Planned Parenthood, in Toronto, as saying LEAP is going to foster anxiety and fear in the hearts of young women.

Hurrah! I'm glad something might make these girls think twice about getting pregnant.

Thompson goes on to say, "A teenage mother forced to return to school in order to, essentially, put food on the table for herself and an infant has had a certain right and choice taken away."

Hogwash! A teenage mother is not being stripped of any rights. Rather, she has made a choice to bring a child into poverty. Has anyone considered the infant has a right to the necessities of life? If the mother cannot provide that, she has no business becoming a mother.

It says employment insurance provides new mothers with 18 weeks of benefits and employers can extend that to a year. Obviously, responsible working women taking maternity leave are not the same women the government is talking about.

Ecker says, "Our goal is to get that teenager with that child set up to get off welfare, into a job or education . . . and break that cycle."

The cycle the government is talking about is an old one; get pregnant, go on assistance. When the first child is ready to go to school, get pregnant again.

This scenario has sustained many women throughout the decades. It's called procuring an income without having to pursue employment. It is a scenario I loathe. This scenario also exploits children.

Ecker says the government plans to spend $25 million to help young mothers with child care and transportation costs.

Child care costs can cover a wide range of expenses, not only monetary, but also emotional.

Unless you have a strong family support environment around you —parents, grandparents — willing to help you financially and emotionally, it is virtually impossible to go back to school unless you bring the child with you.

If you've been raised in a healthy family environment — and yes, mature, responsible single parents can provide this — you probably wouldn't be pregnant at 16 or 17 years old.

Then you have another set of problems.

Who watches the child while you're in class?

Who pays for child care?

Who's raising this child?

Who is raising this child while you are being taught how to be a parent?

If the government is helping you break the cycle, don't climb on board, girls. JUMP at the chance to finish your education. Without it, neither you nor your child will get anywhere.

If LEAP stops just one teenager from reckless behaviour resulting in pregnancy, then I say, "Bravo!"

You kids want to play mommy? Then grow up and be responsible.

How are you going to teach a child something you don't know?

The original song is sometimes best left alone

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

'Some songs should not be remade'

Some things just can't be done twice.

Music consumes people's lives in many different ways. One specific song may catch someone's ear and be almost spiritual to them.

The things that make up a song are rhythm, lyrics, beat and the singers themselves.

The original is sometimes best left alone.

Don't change a song that has made music history and expect a successful repeat.

I heard the remake of Bryan Adams's song *Everything I Do* sung by Brandy on the radio recently and I couldn't believe my ears. That song made music chart history and here was a newcomer, teenybopper singer trying to sing it. I shut off the radio.

Another perfect example is the new hit song by Aerosmith, *Don't Want to Miss a Thing*. I heard it sung on a country station by a country singer on my drive home one day. I was flipping stations and the song rang a bell. Once I realised what it was, I began laughing and couldn't stop until the next song came on.

Some songs should not be remade. I do know some songs that are really good the second and third time round, but chances are if the song is a big hit the first time, it won't be the second, let alone the third or fourth, as some have been done.

'Music consumes people's lives in many different ways'

All I know is songs such as *When a Man Loves a Woman* by Percy Sledge, have been done over and over, and the original still sounds the best. Even after death, Sledge's voice still echoes louder than that of any other singer who has tried to sing his song.

The Niagara News welcomes your opinions and story ideas.
Send them to: The Niagara News, P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ontario L3B 5S2

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Highway Law

Speeding hazardous to driving record

Speeders were unpleasantly surprised as Ontario Provincial Police officers conducted photo radar on Highway 406 last Wednesday, between Welland and St. Catharines.
Photo by Elisabeth Irwin

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Speeders beware!

Highway 406 between Lake Gibson and Beaverdams Road is a regular target for OPP speed enforcement exercise officers.

The OPP set up its photo radar like clockwork every Wednesday morning.

Jerry DeHeus, OPP senior constable of the Niagara detachment, says their presence has been visible for weeks and no one slows down until it's too late.

"We can spot them from the bridge at Lake Gibson," he says.

DeHeus says it's not a speedtrap.

"This is photo radar."

He says on average they pull over about 10 to 15 speeders a day, "depends on how long we're set up."

He says the price of the ticket varies on how many kilometres over the limit the person is driving.

DeHeus says it doesn't take much to go more than 50 kilometres per hour over the speed limit, especially if you're in an 80 kilometre zone.

Asked about a reverse situation, where the zone drops from 100 to 80 kilometres quickly, he says, "Most of our guys won't set up that way. They'll give you a chance in any 80 zone, they just won't hit you the minute you're on top of it. If you're coming from 100 into an 80, they're not going to be sitting on that 80 spot right away. They're going to give you plenty of time to slow down."

He says they set up down the road a little further to give the motorist a bit of a chance, so if you're speeding, you don't have an excuse.

Asked if the camera set up on a tripod is it as effective as former Ontario premier Bob Rae's photo radar on all highways was, he says he didn't get too involved with it.

"We're doing radar operations like before the Rae days. I think it's more efficient."

He says it gives them room to move around and he likes the personal touch.

'G' failing is expensive

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

"You've failed!"

These are the two most dreaded words any driver could hear after a 45-minute, $75 driving exam.

Tia Schultz, 19, of Crediton, Ont., has realised these words are all too familiar to her and a high percentage of drivers trying to get their G licence.

"It's hard enough dealing with the stress of sitting beside some overweight, grumpy man once, but to endure it twice and now a third time is too much for me to handle," says Schultz, an Advertising Design student at Fanshawe College in London, Ont.

Schultz recently made an appointment to get her G licence in Stratford, Ont., where she received her G-2 licence. It only took her one driving test to get her G-2, but she struck out at bat her first time at her G, and isn't very confident about going for the second swing.

"It's absolutely ridiculous that after driving for three years on my own in all different road conditions, that I need someone to tell me that I basically don't know how to drive well enough. I find it insulting."

The steps of getting a full licence start with a G-1 status, which means you have to have someone who has had a licence for five years ride with you.

The next step is a G-2 status, which requires a 20-minute driving test with a driving instructor. Then if that isn't enough, you are required to do another driving test, within five years of achieving your G-2. This final step is a 45- to 60-minute driving test, where you have to show the instructor that you are capable of keeping your licence.

"You do the basics. Then they (the instructors) get unbelievably pathetic," says Schultz. "He made me parallel park twice, do a three-point turn twice, and kept asking me to pull over to the side of the road. I couldn't figure out why. It doesn't take a lot of brains to know how to pull off the road."

She talked about how far the marking of the test went. She said she had marks taken off for driving five kilometres under the speed limit, and deductions were taken off for not checking her mirrors "every 10 seconds."

"Consider what it's like to driving with a perfect record for almost three years and then be told that it's okay to fail because over 50 per cent do trying to get their G status the first time. That wasn't very comforting for me, but that's what my instructor said after I failed."

Schultz says one of her friends actually had marks taken off for going too slowly over railroad tracks and not keeping her turn signal blinker on long enough.

Schultz says you're allowed 30 marks taken off and she had 35. Her friend is now going for her third test. The last time she flunked with a score of 32.

"At $75 a pop, I think it's absolutely ridiculous to assume we are going to be perfect drivers. I can't be that bad if I'm already driving. I think it's another way for the government to suck money from young people who don't have it to spend."

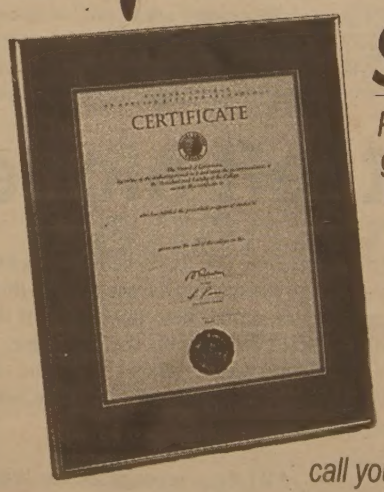
For anyone who wants a full licence and is under the graduated licence system, these are the steps you must take. It seems such a waste of time and a lot of money, but it's the law. Until someone changes the law, it's the only way to do it.

Schultz laughed saying she'd love to mark her instructor on how he does on a road test.

"I think he would fail too — not just because I would love to fail him, but because when you drive for so long, you pick up habits that aren't necessarily bad, but not perfect. It's natural and everyone does it."

Laughing, she says she can just imagine her instructor squealing the tires out of the parking lot on his way home.

Diploma Frame Special



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Board of Governors

Graduates finding jobs

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The results are in and the college is happy. Within six months, 88 per cent of graduates are working.

The first figures for the provincial Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were released on March 9. The results follow the surveys done in the fall of the 1998 academic term, and focus on the first three of five KPIs: graduate and employer satisfaction and graduate employment rates.

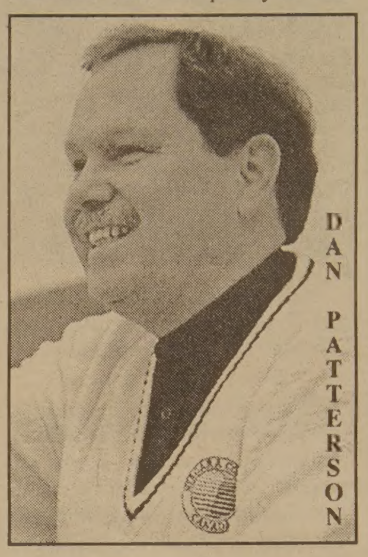
"It's an important signal to employers and students," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson at a meeting held Tuesday in the president's conference room.

The meeting was held to inform student body members and the media about the surveys' results. Also in attendance were Janet Forfar, consultant, graduate and employment services; Amy Elder, manager of employment services; and Christopher Blake, executive director, Niagara College Foundation.

More than 27,000 college grads from all 25 community colleges took part in the telephone survey. Of the 1,574 graduates of Niagara College in 1998, 1,145 or 72.7 per cent completed the survey, as did 248 employers.

These are Niagara College's results:

- 88 per cent of Niagara grads got jobs within six months of graduation,
- 82 per cent of employers were satisfied with the quality of students, while 14 per cent were neutral and four per cent were dissatisfied,
- 67 per cent of Niagara grads were satisfied with their college education in helping them to achieve their goals after graduation, 22 per cent were neutral and 10 per cent were dissatisfied.


DAN PATTERSON

The KPIs started as a provincial government initiative. David Johnson, minister of education and training, announced the implementation on Aug. 28, 1998.

It's the first public sector performance survey of its kind.

Two third-party research firms were contracted to help collect and tabulate the data, Forum Canada Research and Compustat Consultants.

"The results were remarkably high in terms of gradings, not just for Niagara College but for the entire college system," said Patterson, commenting on the feedback from the surveys.

"Community colleges are coming of age," he added, pointing to the recent special issue of *Maclean's* magazine on Why College Grads Get Jobs.

Patterson said the college is becoming a "preeminent" place to study.

The KPIs are significant because they show employers and students the college is heading in the right direction, said Patterson.

"It ultimately is going to be tied to our funding as a public institution."

Patterson said KPIs could affect two per cent of the college's direct operating grant. However, this part of the process will not begin until the fiscal year of 2000-2001.

KPIs equal accountability

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) began as an effort to make community colleges more accountable to both the students and the employers who will eventually hire them.

Before KPIs, each college conducted its own performance surveys. The Ministry of Education and Training recognized the need for a provincial performance evaluation system.

In December 1997 three college/ministry work teams were formed to establish definitions for the five KPIs. In April 1997 the teams tabled their report, which was approved by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario's general assembly. It was then presented to David Johnson, minister of education and training.

The five KPIs decided on were the following:

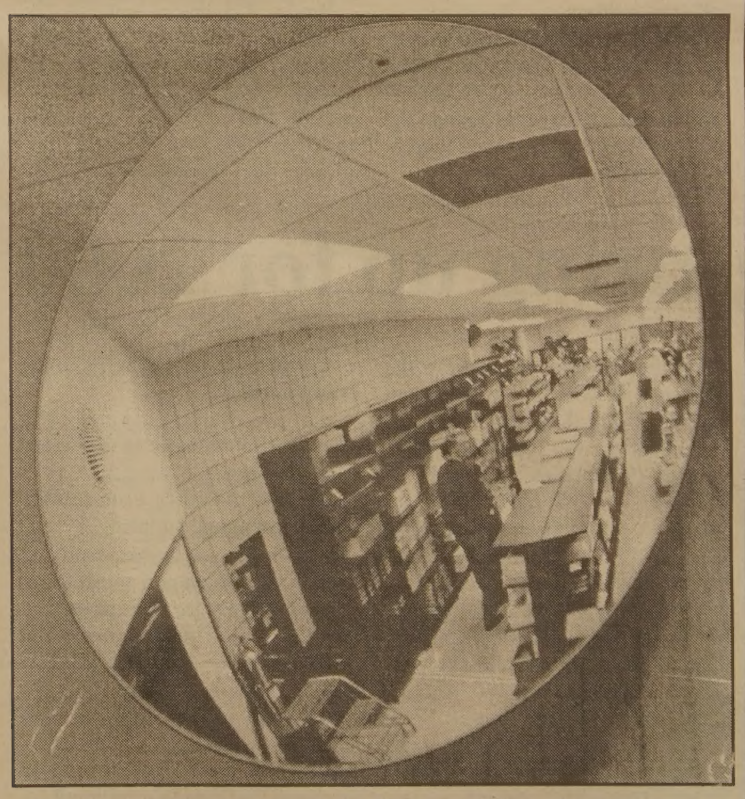
- graduate employment
- graduate satisfaction
- employer satisfaction
- student satisfaction
- graduate rate.

Four principles guided the teams in making their decisions.

- The KPIs should be relevant to the ministry's goals and objectives in post-secondary education and the college's accountability framework.
- The KPI data collection and tabulation should be fair, consistent, objective and auditable.
- They should build on the colleges' expertise, existing materials and current related activities.
- They should build on the ministry's current procedures and activities related to performance indicators.

The KPI system of evaluation will be conducted annually. Each college is allowed to include five college, specific questions in their surveys, which otherwise are generic for all 25 colleges.

We're watching you



Here's a bird's-eye view of the Niagara College bookstore at the Welland campus.

Photo by Sean Coffey

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1999 Election for Internal Governors

Administration, Support, and Student Representatives

This year, Niagara College must elect **one Administration, one Student, and one Support** representative to the Board of Governors for the following terms:

- **Administration** – September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2002
- **Student** – September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2000
- **Support** – September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2002

Those eligible to run are:

- **Full- and Part-time administrative staff employed as of January 1, 1999**
- **Full- and Part-time students enrolled in a certificate or diploma program as of January 1, 1999**
- **Adult Training students attending the College as of January 1, 1999**
- **Full- and Part-time support staff employed as of January 1, 1999**

Nominations will be received from March 9 to March 22, 1999 at 4 p.m., inclusive. Nomination forms together with information about the number of meetings and the role and responsibilities of Governors will be available from the Board Secretary, H-3, and at all balloting stations shown below. Each nomination requires two seconders from the nominee's constituent group.

Campaigning will take place from March 29 to April 11, 1999, inclusive. Balloting will take place on April 12, 13 and 14, 1999, between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 p.m. with votes counted on April 15, 1999. Continuing Education students registered in a program leading to a Diploma or Certificate will be able to vote between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the Continuing Education Office in Hennepin Hall (H-21) at the Welland Campus or in Continuing Education (W-110) at the Glendale Campus. Ballot packages and ballot boxes will be available at the following locations:

- **Glendale Campus**
  - W-211, Vice-president, Enterprise & Service Development
  - E-201, Director, Integrated Manufacturing and Skills Training
  - W-110, Continuing Education (evening hours only)
- **Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism**
- **Welland Campus:**
  - SE-104, Director, Student Services
  - H-21, Continuing Education & Distance Learning
  - H-3, Office of the President

Voters' lists will be available for checking from March 30 to April 5, 1999, inclusive, at all above locations. In order to vote, your name must be on the Voters' list. The last day for revision to the Voters' list is April 5. Strict confidentiality will be maintained in the balloting using two ballot envelopes, one inside the other. On the specified day, the ballot boxes will be opened in the presence of the Returning Officer and the return envelopes stating the name, constituent group and signature will be matched against and recorded on the appropriate Voter listing to ensure one vote per elector. The outer return envelope will then be separated from the ballot envelope to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and the ballot envelope will be returned to the ballot box pending the count of the votes. After all return envelopes have been checked against the Voters' lists and any disputes with respect to voter eligibility have been resolved, the ballot boxes will be reopened and the count commenced. The Returning Officer will rule on the eligibility of any ballot disputed due to improper marking.

Dan Patterson, President

Keep an Eye on Bulletin Boards for Further Notices!

Politics

Manning 'intensely proud' of the Reform Party

From a little known political party in the west to forming Her Majesty's Official Opposition — all in less than 10 years

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

Fiscal and social responsibility, national unity and democratic accountability are the four core principles of Canada's Reform Party.

Reform's leader Preston Manning said the party represents the efforts of tens of thousands of Canadians who have devoted their time, energy and financial resources to building a grassroots political movement to change the face of the federal government.

The party's history dates back 12 years when a group of Westerners who felt "alienated and sidelined from any significant role in federal decision making" came together to form what is known today as the Reform Party of Canada.

"I am intensely proud of the Reform Party," said Manning. "Reform has been instrumental in bringing a fresh approach to politics and in introducing new ideas to modernize Canada for the 21st century."

In its 12 years, Reform has come from being a little-known political party to forming the Official Opposition. The party plans to unite with the Progressive Conservative Party to form the United Alternative Party, capable of toppling the Liberals from power.

At last month's United Alternative convention, delegates voted in favour of establishing the new alliance. It's now up to Reform members to decide the party's fate.

Manning said he went to the convention with one goal in mind: to unite with like-minded Canadians to provide some of the essential things missing from Canadians' lives and the country under the Liberal administration.

He said he wants the new party to eventually form the government.

"I feel that we can and must put forward principled policy solutions to the great issues and problems challenging Canadians. The frozen, unimaginative federalism of Jean Chrétien is paralyzing federal and provincial services for health care, education, and social assistance in this country."

Manning said establishing the party is about uniting to liberate Canadians from that paralysis.

"We have to join together to rescue this country from the flood of Liberal taxation and the apathy that is destroying health care."

The party's main goal as the Official Opposition is to hold the government responsible in all matters of federal jurisdiction. By consistently fulfilling this task, Manning said, "It has been the single greatest measure of the party's success."

In addition to the party's strong roots, they have strong beliefs on issues affecting Canada and abroad, such as native land claims and the crisis in Kosovo.

Although education falls under provincial responsibility, the party understands the importance of Canadians being prepared to work and prosper in the economy of the 21st century.

Reducing the burden felt by students, in the form of student debt and high taxes, is something the Reform Party takes seriously.

Their plan to combat this issue includes allowing students to repay their loans on an income-contingent basis. This, Manning said, will ensure loan payments don't cripple new graduates in their efforts to succeed.

In addition, Manning said the party believes the tax burden on low-income Canadians should be lifted.

On the social union talks between premiers, Manning said they were extremely effective until the Liberal government got involved.

All 10 premiers reached a unanimous agreement in Saskatoon last August proposing a new federal-provincial relationship in such critical areas as health care and education.

"Instead of seizing the opportunity to constructively change the Canadian federation, the Liberals rejected unanimity by offering the provinces a deal that was a shadow of their own."

Manning said the Reform Party didn't support the social union agreement because it represented the "old way" of doing things.

"We believe that old methods that have proven failures should remain in the past. That is why we propose adopting a fresh new vision for Canada that will help all Canadians cope with the challenges of the future."

Another topic on the Canadian political front is the native land claims issue, which, in Manning's view, was "mishandled" by the federal government. He cites the Nisga'a treaty as an example, stating it will cost Canadian taxpayers between $300 to $500 million and could be used as a precedent in future land claim settlements.

Manning said the Reform Party believes all land claim settlements should be negotiated in the public arena and include the concerns of all stakeholders.

Perhaps one of the most important political issues on the hearts and minds of every Canadian today, one which could change the face of the country indefinitely, is the separation of Quebec.

Reform has developed strategies and policies in such case of a "yes vote" by the majority of Quebecers.

Manning said if the situation becomes reality, negotiations surrounding succession should be guided by three principles: democratic legitimacy, the rule of law, and the primary of the interests of Canada.

"Until such time, Quebec is part of Canada and the majority of Quebecers have confirmed their desire to remain part of this country," he said.

On the international scene, the Reform Party is "genuinely concerned" about the crisis in Kosovo.

Manning said the party is not as concerned with placing blame, but rather preventing the violence and providing immediate humanitarian aid.

"A prolonged conflict would not only cause further pain and suffering in Kosovo, but could spill into neighbouring countries destabilizing the entire Balkan region. Simply put, a permanent peaceful solution to this conflict must be found."

Manning himself will continue to represent the constituents of Calgary Southwest as their MP and continue to fulfil his responsibilities as Leader of the Reform Party of Canada and Leader of the Official Opposition. In addition, he will continue to provide leadership for the United Alternative initiative.

Finally, if given one message that would reach every Canadian, Manning said, "The message would be that Canadians deserve a government that will not kill ambitions and dreams through excessive taxation as the Liberals have done."

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Revenue Canada Revenu Canada

Canada

Canada gearing up for 2000

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

The Canadian government is offering its citizens an opportunity to mark a significant milestone for Canada and the world.

To help mark the Year 2000, the federal government has established the Canada Millennium Partnership program, operated by the Millennium Bureau of Canada. It will assist by providing finances and/or endorsement to projects promoting and encouraging Canadians to explore Canada's heritage, celebrate its achievements and build its future.

2000 Canada

The program was established in June 1998 following a survey conducted by the Canadian government. Canadians responded by telling the government they wanted to be included in marking the millennium with the government taking the "leadership role."

The program, spearheaded by Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, who was appointed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, provides one-third of the funding for successful applicants.

Director of Communications for the Millennium Bureau of Canada, Danielle Thibeault, said the program is considered as a "kind of seed money."

She said there has been a "high demand" for financial support. During Phase One of the program, which ended on Oct. 31, 1998, the bureau received about 1,500 applications, said Thibeault adding, 87 applications have been approved.

Phase Two of the three-phase program ends on May 31. Canadians have until March 1, 2000, to apply.

The government has injected $145 million for the partnership program.

To be eligible projects should satisfy these criteria:

- encompass one or more of the program's themes
- take place or be well underway by Dec. 31, 2000
- provide lasting benefits to the community
- involve participation by Canadians nationally or on a community level
- show tangible community involvement and support
- produce measurable results.

Only Canadian non-profit organizations, private enterprise and groups operating on the local, regional, national or international level are eligible to apply.

As well, projects will be supported by the program when meeting one or more of its themes, as outlined in Canada's millennium information booklet, available at any government institution.

All ideas will then be reviewed by the Millennium Bureau of Canada.

In addition to funding, successful applicants will receive the bureau's endorsement, allowing them non-commercial use of the official millennium logo for promotional purposes.

For more information or to apply for funding and/or endorsement, visit the Canada's Millennium Web site at http://www.millennium.gc.ca. You can call them toll free at 1-888-774-9999.

Business

Terry Champion, Nelson Lacroix, Kim Barclay, Brian Saelens and Kelly Heshka speak to students at the Glendale campus.
Photo by J.W. Brown

Heads, tails, retail or sales

Graduates share secrets of success

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

People who can point the way are invaluable to students unsure of their opportunities and responsibilities in the working world after college.

Three Niagara College graduates stated their secrets for success to about 80 students on Feb. 24, in room W111 at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Terri Champion, co-ordinator, Retail Management program, and Nelson Lacroix, professor, Human Resources Management program, were present to introduce the speakers.

"The reason for today's discussion panel was to give the first-year students some insight into the two different career paths that we offer in the two-year business program," Champion said.

"We offer students the opportunity, after their first year, to take either retail management or business sales . . . It's kind of a nice situation for us to have our successful grads come back."

She said the graduates are able to give the first-year students some information about what it's like to choose a career in retail versus a career in sales.

Lacroix said, "For the first time in the program, we have focused on career planning and job-search techniques . . . It was extremely helpful to have former students who are graduates and well on their way in their careers to visit the class and do two things for the students.

"That is, to help them to focus on what the important skills and traits are for success in a career, and, equally important, for the student to have a realistic job preview. That is, to understand what are the glamorous components of working in a different field and what are the difficult ones. And based on that, and their personal lives, it's a tremendous help in helping them to choose where they're going to start their career."

Kelly Heshka, a buyer for Randy River, a young men's clothing store on Weston Road, Weston, Ont., graduated in 1989 from the Retail Management Co-op program, Niagara College, Welland campus.

She said a number of companies participated in recruiting seminars for her graduating class.

"Those people made a very big difference in how I chose the company that I went with. I learned a lot about how to choose a company and I learned a lot about what was out there available to me. Therefore, I want to come back and let the students know, from my perspective, what's available to them in my career package."

Kim Barclay, an executive with Lincoln Graphics, St. Catharines, graduated in 1985 from the Sales and Merchandising program, Niagara College, Welland campus. She said her customers are gaming related: casinos and race tracks.

"I got a lot out of the educational system here at Niagara College and I think it's important, whenever you have the opportunity, to try and help people who are trying to make a career decision, so I felt strongly about coming and speaking to the students today."

Brian Saelens, marketing sales representative for Bell Mobility, Port Colborne, graduated in 1998 from the Business Sales program, Niagara College, Welland campus.

He said he wanted to tell the students the education they receive from the college's business programs will be beneficial to them in the work force. "Everything I'm doing in my career is based on my education and I think that's great for every student to know."

Ad sales top $11,600, exceed goal

These students, in the Business Sales program, were awarded certificates of achievement after selling advertisements for the Little NHL's program book. From left are Juergen Harder, Ben Bowen, David Staples and Michael Cecchi.
Photo by Marni Anderson

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The only place he will use his bursary is on his résumé.

Michael Cecchi, a second-year Niagara College Business Sales program student, had the most money in sales after the class project to sell advertisements for the Little NHL hockey tournaments program book.

Cecchi won the $300 bursary as a result. The bursary will be in his name and passed on to a graduating student next year.

"I feel accomplished," said Cecchi at an assembly for the students on Feb. 25. "If you want to be somewhere in life you have to have a passion."

It's hard to get into selling and this accomplishment will help him in the future, he says, adding, "I worked hard for it."

The class raised $11,600, more than their $8,000 goal.

Other winners included David Staples, top sales manager, whose team raised $3,300; Ben Bowen who had $820 in sales; and Michael Cecchi with 23 advertisements sold.

This is the sixth year the program's students have sold advertisements for the Little NHL book. The silver anniversary tournament will be held March 18 to 21 at five arenas in the Niagara Region.

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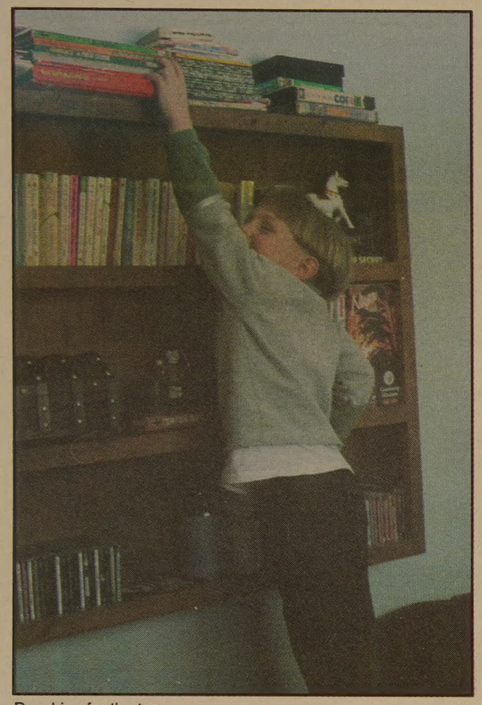
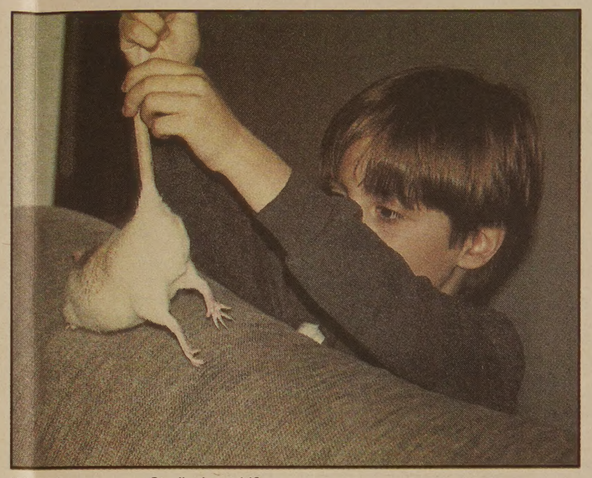


Reaching for the top.

I don't need my nightlight anymore.



What do you mean Studley's a girl?

You're just sooo cuddly.

Supermodel in training?

Why do I need a glass?

It's not a storage box, it's my play fort!

Boo! Scared you, didn't I?

Photos By:
Sara De Tamble,
J.W. Brown &
Christine Morgan

Now what do I do? (Left)

This wasn't as good a hiding place as I thought. (Right)

Library History

Libraries not just for scholars anymore

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

A library is not a recent idea. In fact, libraries have existed since about 2700 B.C., says the *Children's Britannica* Vol. II.

Libraries today differ from those of the past, but the why of the library has remained the same throughout time: to serve all people.

Since about 3500 B.C. people have been recording what they've done on walls and pieces of stone.

The *Britannica* says the Sumerians invented a writing system and recorded it on clay tablets.

The tablets could be easily broken, so it was necessary to shield them. The Sumerians, in 2700 B.C., built a library to hold the tablets.

The famous library at Nineveh was built after Babylonia conquered Sumeria. It contained about 30,000 clay tablets.

"This library is thought to have been the first systematic collection of literature," says *Britannica*.

Around the same time, other cultures adapted their own writing styles.

The Egyptians developed hieroglyphics and a writing material made from papyrus plants. These scrolls were easily movable and more practical for use.

Libraries evolved as public institutions.

According to the 1987 edition of *Compton's Encyclopedia*, public and academic libraries opened in ancient Greece over the centuries.

"Public libraries were opened in Athens perhaps as early as the sixth century B.C. but they weren't lending libraries."

Compton's says only people who could read used the libraries to study or copy scrolls.

Libraries were opened in many places, such as present-day Turkey, Egypt, China and Rome.

"None of the great libraries of ancient times survived," says *Compton's*. They were destroyed by fires, wars, neglect and nature.

Libraries were built in ancient India in the Buddist monastery centres in 414 A.D.

Christian monasteries were built in Egypt but it wasn't until 476 A.D. they became important, says *Compton's*.

In Calabria, Italy, a monastery library was built by Flavius Cassiodorus, a Roman politician.

Books were copied by hand here. This was known as scriptorium.

Scriptoria became popular from Iceland to Greece, "helping to preserve the knowledge of the past in Europe throughout the Dark Ages."

Academic libraries in the early 800s, begun by the early Moslems and Byzantines, shaped the academic libraries of the future.

Universities opened academic libraries as early as 1250 when Robert de Sorgon gave France's University of Paris a collection of books, says *Compton's*.

Universities and colleges worldwide today have libraries for students to use. Since these libraries hold works on many subjects, they're often used by scholars and the public for research, says *Compton's*.

Despite the misconceptions, libraries take many forms. Today, we have community or town libraries, parochial or parish libraries, rental or subscription libraries, mercantile and mechanics' libraries, school-district libraries, research libraries, shipboard libraries, army-post libraries, YMCA libraries, academic libraries, learning resource libraries and government libraries.

Each library has a different focus, but all help a person get information on the subject of choice.

Compton's says Canada and the United States have among the best libraries in the world.

"There are important academic libraries in every province or state in Canada and the United States, many of them with outstanding library schools."

Canada's largest university libraries are at the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta and Montreal's McGill University.

With new advances in technology, libraries share collections and information via the Internet and fax machines.

Microfiche cards enable the libraries to store information in less space, making room for current information.

The photocopier has had a big role in the advancement of the library. Students can copy a page instead of handwriting the information, says *Compton's*.

In the future, libraries will change with the technology, but one thing will stay the same: it will exist to serve a community, says *Compton's*.

"Unless it reflects the thinking of an entire community, it is serving only a portion of that community. One of the (library's) most important jobs is to preserve the freedom of access to all kinds of ideas."

Intercalery Days celebrated by Baha'is

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Within the commandments of every religion, amidst the doctrine to worship God, to serve God, and to love His creation, is the prescription to celebrate.

Christians celebrate the birth of the founder of their religion on Dec. 24. Muslims celebrate Eid-ul fitr as a conclusion to their fast, and Baha'is recently celebrated their four-day festival, Ayyam-i-Ha, from Feb. 26 to March 1.

Recalling that sacred occasion, Doug Grey, a Baha'i from Welland, said, "Ayyam-i-Ha prepares us for the fast by bringing us together with the community and enjoying camaraderie. So when the fast comes in, we're prepared spiritually, our resolve is strengthened and the spirit is strengthened through camaraderie and prayer."

Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, designated these days, known as Intercalery Days, for spiritual preparation for the Baha'i fast, hospitality, feasting, charity and gift-giving.

In a Baha'i prayer book it states, "The fast has been ordained as an annual occasion and takes place during the last month of the Baha'i year, the month of 'Ala' (Loftiness), March 2 to March 20 inclusive. During these days no food or drink should be taken between the hours of sunrise and sunset. It is a time of prayer and spiritual renewal."

People under the age of 15, travelers, the sick and women with child are exempt from fasting.

"It comes down to camaraderie, getting together with different communities that maybe you haven't seen since last Ayyam-i-Ha," said Grey.

This year some festivities in the Niagara region consisted of dancing, music, artistic performances, pot luck dinners, desserts and gift-giving.

During ceremonies held Feb. 27 in Fort Erie, a passage regarding the equality of the sexes was read from a book of speeches given by Abdu'l-Baha, whom Baha'is regard as the Exemplar of the Teachings of Baha'u'llah.

The evening concluded with a dance combining popular Western music and traditional Persian music in honour of the Persian population in Fort Erie's community.

One of the Baha'i Faith's 12 basic principles recognizes the necessity to appreciate women's equality in the establishment of peace.

The Baha'is of St. Catharines supported the Women's Day festival held at St. Thomas Anglican Church. Four Baha'i youth performed a celebration of movement to the words of Abdu'l-Baha. Author Betty Frost inspired the audience with her talk entitled How to Make It Happen.

The day's festivals included music, lectures and workshops.

On Feb. 28, a local Baha'i family welcomed friends and family in gift-giving, games and music.

More than five million Baha'is worldwide rejoiced and shared in fellowship, love and celebration during Ayyam-i-Ha.

Catching some knowledge

Cassandra Simons, of Welland, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, checks out a book this week at the Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus.

Photo by Sean Coffey

Circle of Life

Aboriginal elder gives spiritual guidance

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Deep within the earth's soils and rocks an ancient story dwells.

It remembers a time when each tribe understood the essence of honour, respect and interconnection. It's the story of living in harmonious peace with all of Mother Earth's creatures.

For 200 years, the Aboriginals' sacred land was besieged by other cultures destroying its pride and beauty. Language, ceremonies and narrative history were lost.

Children, taken from their homes and forced into European schooling, suffered the great loss of their ancestors' ways.

One child who experienced European schooling found strength and healing in an inner path towards truth.

Through re-learning the ways of his ancestors he has come to be respected in Poland, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand and Australia. He now resides in the Mississauga New Credit Reservation.

The 58-year-old elder, known only as Calvin, dedicates his Thursdays to Niagara College's Aboriginal department at the Welland campus spending time with students and faculty seeking guidance.

He said he's known by many names but prefers his Aboriginal name, which tells of the way he speaks through his drum.

He speaks with a voice that rumbles like thunder, drawing the listener into the realm of ancient dreams and revealing a wisdom buried for centuries.

Seated in the Aboriginal department's walled cubicle, amidst feathered dream catchers and poster depictions of majestic eagles and peace pipes, he says, "I'm going to tell you a story."

"Someone come to me recently and they had heard a story I told about a young man who wanted to commit suicide. He wanted to talk to someone that might understand him.

"I began to talk about the rays of sunshine, spirituality, how it projected out, the great mystery of life and how it affects everyone and brings life to everything. So I told the young man what the spirit told me. That this very day he would go out and find someone to be meaningful in his life, and he did.

"He became successful in his life, not only in family life but in everything that he did. Later, I came and I told him that I had told him that story to keep him from taking his life, that he was very valuable to society, that's why he was given that life.

"He said, 'Is that not a lie?' I answered, 'Did the truth not work for you? Would you give it all away and now commit suicide?' I left it at that. So a lie is what you perceive it to be."

Calvin, who says he is "only a tool (for the Creator)," speaks most often to children and women suffering from abuse.

Poppycal, Calvin's pseudonym, has authored *Little Dreams, Little Dreams*, *The Beginning of a Traveler in Time*, and *I Can, I Will, I Want*, for those individuals who may not take in the information through his lectures.

He says he writes as he speaks, by putting a question into the listener's head. If they search it out, that expands the memory and spirituality.

Most revenue from his books is donated to the education of a special seven-year-old girl who, he says, listens and remembers all that he tells her.

Essential to his life are ceremonies and prayers. He says he uses them to diffuse negativity.

Aboriginal prayers evoke animals' spirits and include medicines for healing. One prayer song he was taught repeats the phrase "Whatever you ask, I'll do. Whatever you ask, I'll do. Whereever you ask me to go, I'll go."

Smiling he says, "If you want to acquire anything, put your whole being into it."

Although Calvin explains that in the Aboriginal community, ". . . you can't put a word on spirituality," it seems spirituality is woven into the very fabric of Aboriginal ancestry.

Aboriginal means first or original peoples. Among their beliefs is the recognition of the sacredness of life's journey. They honour various rites of passage such as birth, a boy's maturing into manhood, and death.

"Death isn't really death. It's called the Great Mystery of Life."

Many people associate the circle of life with Aboriginal identity, but Calvin said this wasn't created until the 20th century. Previously it was represented as a ray of sunshine.

Europeans confused this symbol. They believed Aboriginals were sun worshippers. However, rays meant something, Calvin said, and spirituality is the same way. "Spirituality is like a ray of sunshine."

Calvin said he recognizes the equality of men and women. One important aspect of Aboriginal spirituality is the courtship process. It begins when the man is 28 years old after he has firmly established himself, learned his trade and is able to support a stable family.

Finding a partner from a different clan strengthens the community bond within the nation, says Calvin.

The elder described the social structure as a flower. The women and children are the centre. The men, the petals, are protectors. Up and down the pathway of the stem are the medicine people, while teachers and spiritual leaders are described as the leaves. The main root, for spiritual growth, is Mother Earth.

Instrumental to healing is a person's acceptance of the value in personal truth. Each person has a truth, one "grain of sand" he or she contributes to the ocean of civilization. It fits together and has meaning. "It all tells the story of life."

Government giving Y2K problem top priority

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

The clock is ticking.

As of midnight March 12, 1999, there are 294 days, 7,056 hours, 423,360 minutes and 25,401,600 seconds until what experts predict could be a worldwide computer shutdown.

In recent years people worldwide have become aware of the computer-crisis known as Y2K, or the millennium bug.

With 2000 approaching, the crisis threatens anyone with a computer, video cassette recorder, alarm system or numerous other date-sensitive devices.

Basically, the crisis occurs when a computer chip records the year as 1900 since original designers used a two-digit date stamp. This means systems using date-sensitive software are vulnerable to the bug and could cause them to malfunction when the clock rolls over on Dec. 31.

The Government of Canada is giving the issue top priority.

They deemed the week of Feb. 8 to 12 as Year 2000 Preparedness Week, to focus on the need for Canadians to be educated on the importance of meeting the millennium challenge.

The government, in co-operation with the private sector, held a series of events to encourage Canadian consumers to prepare.

As well, 11 million copies of the *Millennium Bug Home Check*, at a cost of 18 cents each, were delivered to homes across the country.

"As federal minister responsible for consumer issues, I am pleased to provide 11 million Canadian households with the *Millennium Bug Home Check*, a useful guide answering many frequently asked consumer-related Y2K questions," said Industry Minister John Manley in a government news release.

On Aug. 4, 1998, Prime Minister Jean Chretien assigned four departments to co-ordinate Year 2000 efforts across the federal government.

The assignment stemmed from a report released by Task Force Year 2000 in mid-1998 entitled *A Call for Action - The Eleventh Hour.*

To deal with this issue the Treasury Board Secretariat, Industry Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of National Defence were given special responsibilities.

All ministers and deputy ministers are focused on the Year 2000 file. Each minister has a responsibility for preparedness in his or her departmental portfolios.

The president of the Treasury Board is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the government's Year 2000 activities and the monitoring and assessing of federal government departments. The Ministry of Industry is responsible for ensuring the private sector is Y2K compliant. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is keeping Canada's partners abroad aware of Canada's efforts, and the Minister of National Defence is co-ordinating contingency plans.

Industry Canada has been fulfilling its responsibilities since the minister formed a private sector task force in September 1997. The task force is chaired by Bell Canada President and Chief Operation Officer, John Monty, and was instrumental in heightening awareness of the Y2K issue with the release of its report.

The Ministry of National Defence and the Canadian Forces are preparing their own contingency plan, called Operation ABACUS.

The military, like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has suspended all leave from Dec. 28, 1999, to March 15, 2000, said Director of Communications Task Force Year 2000 Secretariat, Richard Bélec.

"It's more of a prudential decision," he said.

In terms of money, the Ministry of Finance has increased the capital cost allowance for Year 2000 compliance-related costs for small and medium-sized businesses.

This would allow those businesses to claim up to $50,000 in deductions for the purchase of computer hardware and software to become Y2K compliant.

In addition, the Business Development Bank of Canada has established a $50-million Year 2000 Ready Loan program.

Small business owners can apply for specially designed term loans offering flexible repayment conditions, including the possibility of a moratorium on principal payments until the Year 2000.

"I am cautiously optimistic," said Bélec about Canada's success in achieving Y2K compliance.

He said, in his perception, Canada will function as a whole.

Canada's leading Y2K consultant, Peter de Jager, recently gave Canada a B+ in millennium-readiness.

For more information, visit http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sos2000.

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Sports

Knights look forward to next season

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights women's basketball team ended their season with a 71-44 loss to London's Fanshawe College on Feb. 26.

It was a tough ending to an up-and-down year for Niagara, but head coach Georgie Groat said she was pleased with the improvement the team showed throughout the year.

"This is a great bunch of kids, for sure," said Groat, 29, of St. Catharines. "I felt they played great tonight. They didn't get down on each other. It was really nice to see."

The season featured many highlights for the Knights, including an upset victory over Hamilton's Mohawk College in January. Unfortunately, Niagara missed out on a trip to the playoffs.

However, Groat said the team gained experience for next year.

"I think they realized their potential by the end of the year. I don't think they thought they were as good as they were. By the middle to the end of the year, they became a really good team.

"Had they realized their potential at the beginning, I think they might have done better, but I'm happy with the way they played."

Third-year veteran Andrea Flindall, playing her final game for the Knights, said the team improved as the year progressed.

"It's been a fun year," said Flindall, 21, of St. Catharines, a first-year General Arts and Sciences program student. "We did have a bigger team at the start of the year. We've gotten smaller but we've just been more determined. We've had more confidence. We've come out and won a few (more) games this semester. We've played hard and improved a lot."

LeighAnn Breault, who led the Knights in scoring in their final game, said she has had fun all season.

"It's been amazing," said Breault, 19, a first-year student in the Office Administration Executive program. "The coaching has been great. The team support has been great and it's been an overall learning experience. I'm so glad I played this year."

Breault said as the season went on, the team became closer.

"Team unity has been a big factor. Without team unity, everybody plays by themselves. You don't have a team. It showed in this game. Even though we didn't win, it showed."

Groat said the team has much to look forward to next season.

"I think, with the kids coming back for their second year, I'll have more experienced (players), which is important. I'll have a second year of experience and I think you'll see a harder-working, experienced team next year."

"We'll have the same team plus we'll be able to build, too," said Breault. "I feel there's a lot of players on our team that can step up (as a leader) and have stepped up this year already. I hope that I can be one of those players."

Flindall said the Knights can be a better team next year.

"Georgie's a really good coach," said Flindall. "This was her first year so she's going to improve more and she's got more recruits coming."

"I've learned a ton because I've never coached at this level," said Groat. "There's a lot of things that I've learned that I'll do differently next year and hopefully it'll make a difference."

Scoring for the Knights, in their final game were Breault (16 points), Andrea Flindall (13), Kristin Flindall (four), Melissa Hallborg (four), Candace Oxford (three), Misty Williamson (two) and Heidi VanDerWier (two).

The team finished with six wins and 10 losses.

Kristin Flindall (42) wins the tip-off for the Knights at the start of their 71-44 loss to Fanshawe. It was the final game for the Knights this season.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Men's season ends in heartbreak, disappointment

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

It was a disappointing end to a promising year.

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team were defeated 76-74 by London's Fanshawe College in their final game of the season, a game they needed to win by 34 points to make the playoffs.

Knights' head coach Jeff MacDonald said he was pleased with his team's effort.

"I thought they played great. Once they understood they weren't going to have the 34-point differential, it broke their heart and they started to get frustrated. They weren't really concerned with winning the game. We wanted to win the game by 34."

"They wanted it all," said assistant coach Ric Ethier. "We had a little stretch there where we thought we had a chance. They (Fanshawe) came in, canned a couple threes on us, got a couple of cheap calls and then we knew it was going the other way."

Knight veteran Steve Boyle, playing in his final game, said the end result was disappointing.

"There's a number we had to meet to make the playoffs and I think as soon as the number wasn't there anymore, we (saw) our way to the playoffs and it wasn't there. We kind of fell short."

MacDonald said the team did improve since the first practice in September.

"We're 100 per cent better, there's no question. I thought they played extremely hard because they got better. We didn't get worse, we got better. We built off every game and I was pleased with the work ethic. The guys are good kids and they deserved better.

"We learned to play together better in the second half of the season," said Ethier.

"When you're sporting nine rookies, it takes a long time, at this level of basketball, to be able to play as a team. I think tonight the fans saw us play as a team."

Ethier said he thinks the team will be better next year.

"No question. All the games that we lost, we played against guys that were playing together for three or four years. We'll be in that boat next year."

Ethier said an Ontario Colleges Athletic Association championship is "always a possibility. Everybody starts at 0-0 next year. The coaching staff now has to go out and really recruit to fill a few holes and we'll see what happens in September."

Even though he won't be returning, Boyle said the team will get better.

"Probably an even better year than this year," he said. "They'll have more experience. A few more veterans on the team will help."

"We have good people," said MacDonald. "We made the mistakes that a young team makes. Our best is yet to come."

Scoring for the Knights in their final game were Haldon Hutchison (19 points), Paul Stewart (17), Ernell Ellis (13), Boyle (nine), Aaron Paisley (eight) and Curtis Francis (eight).

The team finished with six wins and six losses.

Curtis Francis (25) attempts to drain a two-point jumper in the Knights' season finale. Fanshawe won the game 76-74.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Veteran says goodbye

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The last three years have gone by quickly.

Andrea Flindall, a third-year veteran on the Niagara Knights women's basketball team, played her final game for the Niagara College Knights on Feb. 26.

Flindall, 21, of St. Catharines, has been a leader for the Knights since she joined the team in 1996. Among her accomplishments were three consecutive appearances in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association All-star game.

"I had a good time, all three years," says Flindall. "It's been tough. We haven't had a lot players. We haven't had a lot of recruits. It's been a tough three years but it's been a lot of fun. I don't regret anything."

Flindall's coach for the 1998-99 season, Georgie Groat, 29, of St. Catharines, says she was pleased with Flindall's final shot.

"In Andrea's last year, it went to her on the last play and she scored a three-pointer," said Groat.

Flindall's three-point shot was the final scoring play in the Knights' final game, a 71-44 loss to London's Fanshawe College.

Groat says she will be looking to other players next season to take over Flindall's leadership role.

"They're big shoes to fill, so hopefully someone will step up to the job."

While her days as a Niagara Knight are over, Flindall will continue playing college basketball for at least one more year.

"I hope to be playing at Fanshawe," says Flindall, jokingly adding the decision may not be popular after the game the Knights had just finished playing.

Sports

Cricket World Cup coming

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Unknown to many North Americans, the Cricket World Cup will be held in Britain during the summer of 1999.

It's held every four years among the top cricket countries of the world.

The first Cricket World Cup was played in 1975 in England and was won by the West Indies cricket team under the captaincy of Clive Lloyd.

They beat England in the final, which was held at the world famous cricket ground called Lords.

The West Indies again won the second tournament in 1979 which was held in England.

The other winners of the prestigious tournament are India, Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

As for the 1999 Cricket World Cup, it could be won by South Africa, Sri Lanka, Australia or maybe England. The English have the advantage because they would be playing at home.

Whoever wins the coveted trophy, its certain to be an exciting time for cricket fans in many parts of the world.

Canada is steadily getting better at the game, and it's only a matter of time when they would be able to compete with the "big guns" in the sport.

Some of the great cricketers to come out of the sport are from many parts of the globe. For example, there are the great West Indian batsmen (batters) such as Sir Gary Sobers (Barbados), Vivian Richards (Antigua), Brian Lara (Trinidad and Tobago), Malcolm Marshall (Barbados) and Clive Lloyd (Guyana).

Sir Gary Sobers set a world batting record of scoring 375 runs in 1964 but Brain Lara broke it in 1994 by scoring 379 over three days at the Antigua Recreation Ground against England.

Some of the other great cricketers are Englishmen like Sir Ian Botham (batsman or batter), Sir Len Hobbs (bowler or pitcher), Bob Willis (bowler) and Fred Trueman (bowler). India produced Kapil Dev (batsman) and Sunil Gavaskar (batsman or batter).

Australia has Sir Don Bradman (batsman), Dennis Lillie (bowler) and Rodney Marsh (wicketkeeper or pitcher).

The West Indies produced one of the greatest cricket and sports teams of all times under the captaincy of Clive Lloyd. This team dominated international cricket from the middle of the 1970s to the early 1990s.

This is one of the longest, if not the longest periods of sports supremacy, ever recorded by any one team in the history of world sports.

Unfortunately, many North Americans are unaware about the history of the sport and the game itself. Cricket began in England in the late 18th Century by members of the wealthy, aristocratic class. They played it on weekends as a form of recreation on fields that were part of their huge country estates.

However, cricket was also a very elitist pastime in English society because the masses were not encouraged by the upper classes to play it. This prevented many of the so-called lower classes from trying to play it.

With the rise of the British Empire during this period and into the 19th century, the game was carried to and transplanted throughout Britain's overseas colonies. British colonial governors and other colonial officials, plantation slave owners, soldiers and sailors all introduced cricket to the colonial subjects.

Eventually, cricket took root among the native peoples of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), the British colonial West Indian islands and Canada.

The first international cricket matches were played between England and Australia in the latter part of the 19th century. This sporting tradition continued into the early part of the 20th century just before the outbreak of the First World War.

The game stopped in its tracks during the war years of 1914-1918, but resumed when peace was restored.

The England/Australia cricket rivalry produced some of the best cricket contests in the history of the game at that time. By this time, New Zealand and Australia had started competitive games against each other.

However, when Hitler started the bloody carnage called the Second World War, once again, international cricket competition was stopped until the end of the conflict.

In the ensuing post-war decades of the 1950s,'60s, '70s and '80s, many former British colonies became independent Commonwealth countries.

Thus, the world cricket fraternity expanded greatly with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the English-speaking West Indian islands, Zimbabwe and Kenya all becoming active participants in international cricket competitions.

In cricket terminology, the athletes who play the game are called cricketers. The world governing body for the game is called the International Cricket Council or ICC.

There are two kinds of international cricket games that all cricketers strive to play in. They are called Test matches and one day international games.

Test matches are contested by two teams consisting of 11 cricketers over a period of five days within two innings for both teams.

The word "Test" is used to describe this particular sort of game because it's a true test of a cricketer's physical and psychological abilities under difficult circumstances.

International cricketers have to be mentally and physically fit to play a Test match for five days, especially in the hot sun. However, Test matches can finish under five days, depending on how strong both teams are.

One day internationals, as the name says, are played over a period of one day. These are the type of games which would be played by cricketers in the Cricket World Cup.

The winner of a cricket game, be it in a Test match, a one day international or an ordinary domestic league game, is the team that scores the highest number of runs and then limits the opposition to a score under the one which the other team made.

Cricketers have different roles to fullfil in the team as they try to win a match. There are those who are called batsmen (or batters), who have to use a wooden bat shaped like a paddle to hit the ball away from the opposing fielders so that he could make runs for his team.

They also have to use protective equipment to protect themselves from being hit by the ball, which is bowled to them by the bowler (pitcher) from the opposing team. The protective equipment which he uses is a helmet, batting gloves, leg pads, a chest and thigh protector, a protective box and cricket shoes.

The bowler's responsibility is to bowl out the opposing batsmen (batters) for as low a score as possible. It's a tough job because he has to spend many hours running up to the cricket pitch where he bowls the ball in an overhand action to the batsman.

If the bowler bowls the ball on the pitch to the batsman (batter) and he tries to hit it but misses it and the ball hits the three wooden sticks (called stumps) behind him, then the batsman is out. This means he cannot bat anymore and he has to leave the field and allow another batsman (batter) to come out and bat for the team.

The fielders have to get the out batsman (batter) by catching the ball after it comes off the batsman's bat. Depending on how good a catcher he is, the fielder can take some spectacular catches to dismiss the batsman (batter).

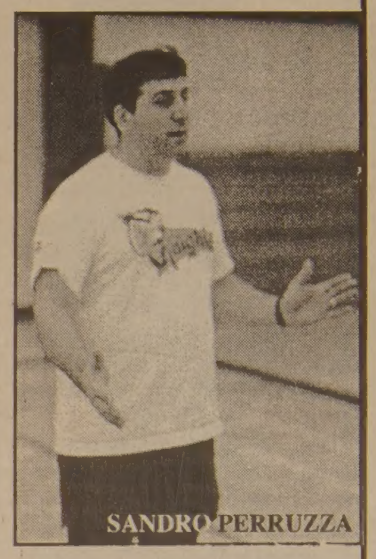
The fielders also have to prevent the batsman from making as many runs as possible by running after the ball, picking it up and throwing it into the hands of the bowler or the wicketkeeper.

The wicketkeeper is another fielder but he is a special type of cricketer because he is the only fielder allowed to wear gloves and he must stand behind the three sticks (stumps).

He can also catch out the batsman (batter) once the ball touches the batsman bat and the ball flies behind the stumps.

Niagara soccer champs

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer



The Niagara College men's indoor soccer team put itself on the regional soccer map by winning the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Regionals for the first time.

The OCAA regional men's soccer tournament was held at Redeemer College in Ancaster on March 6.

The Niagara Knights squad defeated Etobicoke's Humber College 7-6 in the finals.

As a result, Niagara has earned the right to represent the OCAA's Western Region at the OCAA provincial championships to be held at North Bay's Nipissing University on March 20.

The men's team was powered to victory in the final match against Humber with goals by Mark Saccucci, Brian Panunto, Anwar Ahmed, Joey Lamberti and Miladin Mitrovic.

Saccucci and Panunto scored two goals each while Ahmed, Lamberti and Mitrovic scored one apiece.

In the opening game against Ancaster, Ahmed, Saccuci and Panunto got their names on the score sheets to help Niagara win by four goals.

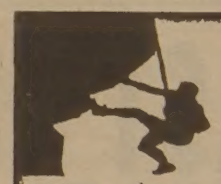
Saccucci netted two, while Ahmed and Panunto each scored one.

Niagara moved into the finals by defeating Redeemer College 4-2 and by defeating Nipissing University 7-3.

Against Nipissing, Saccucci was Niagara's top scorer by virtue of his scoring a hat trick. However, Niagara's goal-scoring rampage did not stop there because Ahmed, Mitrovic, Panunto and Ryan Nava each scored to help Niagara.

The team is training for the OCAA provincial championships on March 20.

NEXT EDITION MARCH 19, 1999



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Eye On Niagara

Cuban chefs learning new flare with traditional fare

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

It's one of the first projects offering international contract training at Niagara College.

Martha Casson, of Fonthill, vice-president of the Enterprise and Service Department, and Mark Hand, 36, of Stevensville, Ont., food and beverage manager at the Maid of the Mist Centre of the Niagara Falls campus, left for Cuba Feb. 9.

"My role on this trip is to negotiate and sign the agreement and to meet other potential clients' companies owned by the Grupo Cubanacan who might be interested in a similar arrangement with us," said Casson.

The Grupo Cubanacan is a large hotel chain in Cuba employing about 23,000 employees in 54 hotels, 62 restaurants, 38 health centres, three yacht clubs, a travel agency and a transport company.

Niagara College trained two groups of restaurant and hotel managers last term.

"We've signed, last fall, a one-year interim agreement with the hotel, the Grupo Cubanacan. We'll be also negotiating and signing a five-year training project during this trip."

Hand's job in Cuba is to "evaluate chefs and conditions on site, including kitchens and the quality of food."

He added, in Cuba, they're limited in the number of raw materials for food because they don't import a lot of products from the U.S.

Casson indicated one of the concerns raised by the tourists in Cuba is that the food isn't up to their expectations. The Grupo Cubanacan wants the college to help the organization improve it for the hotel.

"Primarily, I'd like to get a broader view of what their chefs are performing and providing in the hotels and then develop a training program for them," said Hand.

They are scheduled to meet a president, training director Enrique Hernandez and chefs of the Grupo Cubanacan.

"We are hoping to have an agreement on the next group of chefs coming for a seven-week training program in May," said Casson.

"We can show them 100 different kinds of food that they don't deal with," said Hand.

He added the seven-week training program is based on satisfying North American and European visitors from a culinary viewpoint. It will be certainly different from what the college provides for Canadian students.

Hand said, "We don't have to teach them how to cook, but teach them new ways to prepare things that they have. We are dealing with professionals."

Hand mentioned the challenge for him is more or less when he comes back and "puts different ideas together with the limitations of what they have in Cuba."

"I'd love to come back with a clear outline of what the college can show and provide for Cuban chefs," said Hand.

"I'm also hoping to explore the possibility of co-op placements for our students in the Cubanacan hotels," said Casson.

Trio provide worldwise reach for homebound teen

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

CRYSTAL BEACH — Thanks to the help of Niagara College, the world is his to explore — a world otherwise inaccessible.

College employees John Thompson and George Duczmal, together with the Port Colborne-Welland and District Shrine Club and Internet Access Worldwide (IAW), have donated a redundant computer, modem and unlimited Internet access to Kevin Near.

Near, 16, of Crystal Beach, has severe cerebral palsy, which is paralysis resulting from brain damage before or at birth. The disease leaves him unable to communicate verbally and with his mobility extremely limited.

Having a computer allows him to communicate, learn and explore the world via the Internet.

Near's advocate, Vivian Stevens, said he "appreciates it a lot."

She said he spends about a half an hour on his computer during weekdays and three to four hours on the weekends.

"We've come so far with the Shriners," she said. "He (Kevin) is my life."

The donation results from a project begun when past Shriner's President Richard Pearson approached Thompson last summer.

Thompson, an instructor in the Computer Applications in Design course, was asked about the possibility of Niagara College donating a redundant computer for Near.

Both Thompson and Duczmal, computer engineering technologist, co-ordinated efforts over the next three to four months in an attempt to acquire the necessary equipment.

In the meantime, Thompson said, "I acquired a modem and a free Internet account from IAW." The donation of the account was made possible by the owner of IAW, through Thompson's son Sean, who is employed part time by the Internet service provider.

"It makes you feel good to be able to do something other than the hustle and bustle of everyday business," said the owner of IAW, Frank DeChellis.

DeChellis said physically disabled people have enough barriers in their life, and being able to take one of them away means a lot.

"Between Niagara College donating the computer and IAW donating the modem and Internet account, we ended up getting him (Near) online," Thompson said.

Just before Christmas Thompson said Duczmal walked into his office and said "'Here's the stuff.' I took it home, my son and I hooked it up, then dismantled it, got a hold of the president of Shriner's and we went out there (Near's home) two days before Christmas and set it up for him."

Thompson said he thought the Internet would be a whole new educational world for Kevin.

The computer, a 486, in today's standards is out-dated, but is sufficient for Near's needs.

"It was just nice to be able to help somebody out," said Thompson.

Kevin Near explores the World Wide Web on his 486 computer donated by Niagara College. Near has unlimited access to the Internet donated by IAW owner Frank DeChellis.
Contributed photo by John Thompson

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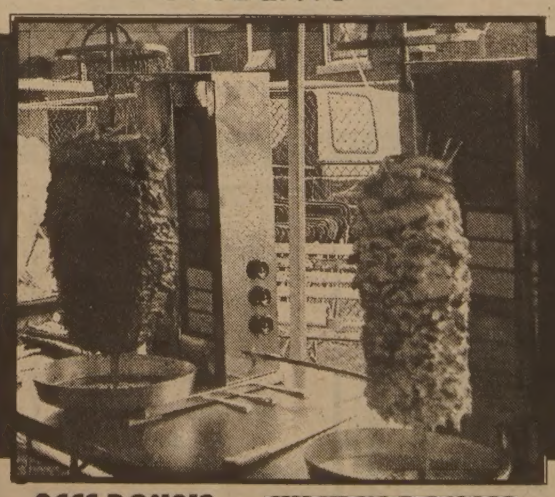
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Eye On Niagara

Never any excuse for violence

Anti-violence methods taught in the education system are not being practiced

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

It is time to take the "victim" out of "victimization."

Two St. Catharines professors aim to have women and men look at the issues and be aware of the latest research in opposing violence against women.

Ann Duffy, 51, of St. Catharines, founded a family violence course in 1990. She said her work has been published in *Sociology* and *Family Text, Women and Work* and she is currently writing a chapter on poverty for *Canadian Society*.

Julianne Momirov, 42, St. Catharines, a former student of the course at Brock University in St. Catharines, is working on her PhD at McMaster University in Hamilton, and studying sociology and race ethnicity.

Together, in four months, they wrote *Family Violence*, the first book to address family violence in Canada. The pair will be lecturing at Brock University on Tuesday, March 2, at 4:30 p.m. in room JE 325.

"One of the things that strikes me, and this is very much part of what Julianne wrote in the book, I think we both feel that it's important to understand that violence against women is not understandable outside of the context from which it emerges," said Duffy.

Violence comes from very real reasons, she said, citing examples of causes of violence. The way men are raised, encouraged to be aggressive and not to be wimps, and the current position of women in society all contribute to this on-going problem.

"It's not really about sick individuals and it's not a matter of individual psychological problems. It's a social matter," said Momirov, who'd like to see violence in ethnic families studied more thoroughly.

Consider a single mother living in poverty challenged to decide whether to stay with a boyfriend whose abuse is "tolerable" or to strike out on her own and have her children live in poverty.

"Women who have children (and) who are married, frequently, cannot leave abusive situations, and that really hasn't changed," said Duffy.

Abusive men are known as the 'nice guy' because they are also incredibly manipulative.

"I really believe that an abusive relationship isn't just abusive," said Momirov. "There are other issues — love and loyalty — and the family element really complicates things, really muddies the water."

She said this topic touches her personally. It angers her and offends her sense of justice.

"I found it to be something, that in a sense, violated me and . . . I felt like I needed to do something about this and my way was to write about it and bring the information to light," said Momirov.

Registration in the family violence course rises yearly. It's peopled with students wanting a deeper understanding of the cause of family violence to help them in careers in law and security or social services. In educating the students, Momirov said she attempts to break people away from gender role constraints.

Both women agreed students bring to the class their own fears.

"There is that desire to deny," said Momirov. Many students have the attitude of "This couldn't happen to me. I'm too smart to pick somebody who would be an abuser. I'm too independent. I'm too strong-minded.'"

The two agree, however, that despite the anti-violence methods

taught in the education system and elsewhere, the theory isn't being practised.

Duffy gives the example of children being taught the "verbiage" in schools, such as "Don't hit" and "Don't touch me there," but what it boils down to is a lot of children still fighting in the playground and being abused by trusted individuals one wouldn't suspect of being abusers.

This is a "classic example of where we turn these people into monsters. The reality is that they're not, and that's what's really scary," Duffy added.

In her opinion, abusive men are often persuasive, passive and known as the "nice" guy, which they are, she laughed, "because they are also incredibly manipulative."

With a lowered voice, she mumbled, "I don't think we've made that much progress.

"One goal of the class is to try to open the students to the difficult reality of abusive partners, to get them past personal myths and say, 'You know what? Abusers don't walk around with signs that say, "Hi there. I will abuse you."'"

"Students will often display their difficulty in believing the problem is really in the way it's conceptualized," said Momirov.

Sometimes the person who abuses you is somebody who treats you fantastically in the beginning — the whole romance thing, said Duffy.

"We think, 'Oh, isn't it wonderful!' if a guy pays complete attention to us. We're the centre of his universe. He wants to talk to us on the phone 27 times a day, drive us everywhere. Well, you know what? That's the beginning of abuse. That's somebody trying to control your life, and by the time you figure out this isn't the great thing you thought it was, you're in it, " said Momirov.

"I think it's an important point, that as a society we try to judge people because we want to distance ourselves from the problem."

One of the opinions often raised in class is "Well, I wouldn't stay," and then students want to do essays on why women stay, "as if that's part of the problem," said Duffy.

"Also (it's) a kind of moralism, to blame the victim. If she had any guts she'd leave. If she really cared about her kids, she'd leave, which again is ignoring what goes on in people's lives . . . . It's much more complicated than that."

"I think if you're in a relationship with a person who wants what's best for you more than they want what's best for them, they probably love you," said Duffy.

"I think it's important that we not be negative about it, that there is some sense of hope about it," said Duffy.

Both women look forward to doing a revised edition of this book that may include ethnic, AmerIndians and Native Canadian issues.

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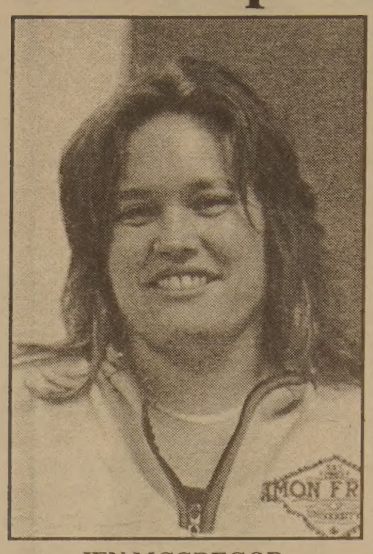
Eye On Niagara

Glendale SAC president on the up and out



JEN MCGREGOR

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

This is the last year for Jen McGregor, Glendale campus's Student Administrative Council (SAC) president, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

McGregor is graduating from the Environmental Management program this year.

'There is one job description for all of us. We work as one body.'

She says she "loves" her job and "the network" of SAC. "By being involved you see a lot more and become more aware of what is going on. I do enjoy that."

"There is one job description for all three of us (the Glendale SAC). We work as one body," says McGregor. She says she "represents students and advocates at meetings."

She doesn't have a hard time keeping up with her school work and her SAC duties, she says, adding, "I am very good with time management."

She says SAC members are required to work 10 hours a week, but, on average, all of SAC works more, she says.

'By being involved you see a lot more and become more aware of what is going on. I do enjoy that'

McGregor says she thinks SAC achieved its goal to unify all three campuses. "I believe while there is always room for improvement and growth for the first year, it is working."

The new SAC constitutional structure "needs changes," McGregor says, adding, "the constitution needs to be updated to meet the needs of today's students."

Students liking the new campus was "rough at first," but "students are settled in" now. McGregor says the "problem was that it wasn't ready."

The Glendale SAC is planning a golf tournament, which will be offered to all students, and a variety of pub events, says McGregor.

Old Man Winter returns

Rob Miller, 22, of Huron Park, Ont., is shovelling out the car once again. It looked like spring was on the way, but it seems snow is back for another visit.

Photo by Angela Pickering

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Entertainment

Rare, used CDs have high resale value

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The last time you went used CD shopping, you may have come across gold and not known it.

Music collecting isn't just for vinyl lovers anymore. There are some CDs and cassettes out there worth hundreds of dollars — and they are out there.

Rare music can be worth hundreds

Here are a few items to keep your eyes open for. Toronto is a great place to start looking, mainly because the music industry in Canada is based there. Record company employees, journalists and radio stations have all had their hands on these items at one point in time.

Value is based on mint condition sale prices at auction on http://www.ebay.com in the past month. Prices have been converted to Canadian funds.

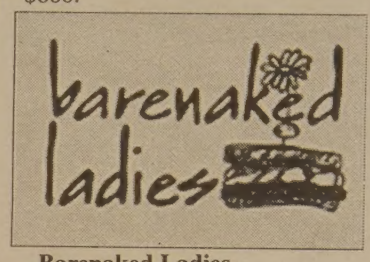
Tori Amos

She's one of the most collected artists out there. If it's out of the ordinary and has anything to do with Tori, it will be worth a pretty penny. She also has two of the most collectible promo CDs of the '90s.

Tori Amos CDs are among the most sought after

Amos's album **Under the Pink** was released in 1994 by Atlantic Records. When the CD was sold in stores, the cover pictured her standing in the distance against a gray background. The original had a closer shot of her sitting, but was unapproved and changed. The story is that all copies were ordered destroyed, but some had already been sent out as advance copies within the industry. Value: $1,500.

Also a rare Amos item is the **Precious Things** five-track promo CD. It was made to promote Amos on college radio and was distributed only to select stations. Value: $600.



Barenaked Ladies

All old Barenaked Ladies merchandise is in high demand, especially in the United States.

Their 1991 self-titled independent cassette — also referred to as the **Yellow Tape** — went platinum (100,000 copies) in Canada. Few were available in the US, but are being snapped up by collectors now. When the band started hitting it big south of the border, the tapes were going for upwards of $180, but supply has increased and demand hasn't. Current value: $75.

Before that release was 1990's **Barenaked Lunch**, a dark pink cassette put out before drummer Tyler Stewart had joined the band. It was sold only at the group's concerts and is considered very rare. Value: unknown, but expect to see it reach a few hundred at auction.

Long before this they put out a cassette called **Buck Naked**, considered extremely rare. One discography reads, "Ed Robertson estimates about 600 copies of this tape were made. Steven Page says the number is more like 150." Value: unknown, but more valuable than Barenaked Lunch.

Barenaked Ladies' success in U.S. has caused high demand

Sarah McLachlan

One of the most sought-after Sarah McLachlan collectibles is the **Solace by the Sea** promo CD or cassette. It was released primarily to the Canadian media to promote McLachlan's 1992 release **Solace**. It features an interview with musical interludes, including a live version of *Black*.

The front features a photo of McLachlan and reads, "An oceanside interview with Sarah McLachlan featuring the music from her new album Solace." Value for either CD or tape: $200.

Moxy Fruvous

Before hitting it big in Canada in 1993, Moxy Fruvous released a self-titled cassette that sold upwards of 42,000 copies. When the band signed to Warner Music, the tape was put out of production. The group now has a large following of dedicated fans in the United States who want to get their hands on a copy. Value: $125.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Their self-titled independent CD is worth a bit of coin since last year's swing revival. Like Fruvous, they stopped producing it when they were signed to a major label. The cover shows an overhead photo of five zoot-suited legs with their feet pointed towards each other in a circle formation. Value: $200.

Tea Party

This is also a rare self-titled independent release that's no longer available. The CD cover shows a psychedelic tie-dyed swirl with the band name in black. Value: $100.

Return of the dead

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Imagine being an heiress to a pharmaceutical company's fortunes and finding out your presumed dead husband from five years ago was really alive!

Scared, yes. Happy, well . . .

Husband Lover Stranger, written by Suzanne Forster in February 1998, tells the story of a woman who has to learn all over again who her husband really is.

Sophie Weston was about to remarry a kind, caring man, Claude Laurent, when she discovered Jay Babcock, the man she loved five years ago, was alive.

As she started to spend more time with Jay, she realized it was him physically, but emotionally she wasn't sure.

When Sophie's fears got the best of her, things started happening in her life that she couldn't explain: her house was broken into by a man who looked identical to Jay, her faithful dog attacked her and she became pregnant by her sterile husband.

Woman has to learn who her husband really is

The book leaves you in suspense. By the end of the book the mystery unravels. It is not only Sophie who is surprised at the outcome.

Emmett to play pub

Canadian singer-songwriter Rik Emmett will perform at After Hours pub at the Welland campus of Niagara College March 26.

Emmett helped form '70s rock band Triumph. He was inducted into the Canadian Rock Hall of Fame in 1993.

Tickets for the Friday evening performance are $20, or $30 for a meet and greet with the guitarist. They are available by contacting David Bott at 735-2211 ext. 6456.

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Junos

Canuck music celebrated at Copps

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

"We should have just rerun the Grammys."

Mike Bullard's joke may not have been such a bad idea. Bullard hosted the 28th annual Juno Awards March 7, a night that is supposed to see all the stars come out.

Most of Canada's biggest musicians had other plans that night, making the ceremony at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton a parade of b-list entertainers.

Neither Sarah McLachlan nor Alanis Morissette were nominated for any Junos, and they didn't attend the awards.

Celtic group Leahy was performing in North Carolina and unable to collect their award for best country group or duo.

The Tragically Hip were continuing their tour of Western Canada and weren't on hand to receive their award for best rock album for **Phantom Power**.

Bryan Adams, winner of the best songwriter Juno, and Shania Twain, chosen best country femal vocalist, were also absent.

Barenaked Ladies were on a promotional tour of Australia, but performed their hit *One Week* via satellite from a beach in Melborne. Keyboard player Kevin Hearn, who is recovering from leukemia, was on hand to accept the band's awards for best single, best pop album and best group.

The biggest star in Copps Coliseum was Celine Dion, who took home Junos for best selling album, best selling francophone album, best album, best female vocalist, and the previously announced international achievement award.

Dion, who performed twice during the ceremony, announced during one of her acceptance speeches she would be taking time off to start a family once her tour ends.

Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy won best male vocalist for his solo project. Afterwards he said he had some trouble with his acceptance speech. "The only thing I feel bad about is I had one chance to thank my wife and I didn't thank her. You get one shot at it. You get up there and you think 'I've done this a million times' and then nothing. Nothing in your mind," he said.

The Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra won for best new group. They shared their exuberance backstage by throwing candy and cigarettes to the press. Favourite said it was "stuff I had to console myself after we lost."

The presenter of the award, Bruce Guthro, "kicked our butts at the East Coast Music Awards a couple of weeks ago, so I thought just as a cruel joke he'd called our name even though it didn't say it," said Favourite. "He probably did and we'll be like Milli Vanilli giving this back."

Most of the evening's awards were handed out before the televised ceremony.

Colin James picked up a best producer award.

"I'm flattered and humbled," he said, having beat out David Foster and Daniel Lanois.

Love Inc. walked away with a Juno for best dance recording for the album **Broken Bones**. Love Inc.'s Simone Denny said the Juno means "all the effort and work we put into this album paid off."

Rufus Wainwright won best alternative album for his self-titled recording. His mom and aunt, Kate and Anna McGarrigle, won for best roots and traditional album by a group for **The McGarrigle Hour.**

"Junos are in one's genes tonight," Wainwright said after his win. "We're going to build a house of Junos."

The televised portion of the Junos included performances from Philosopher Kings, Sloan, Colin James and The Little Big Band, The Moffatts, and Celine Dion. Presenters included Geddy Lee, Kim Mitchell, and Ashley MacIsacc.

The Walt Gralis Special Achivement Award was awarded to Allan Waters, Chairman and President of CHUM.

Quebec composer Luc Plamondon was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

Other winners included:

Best New Solo Artist — Melanie Doane

Best Country Male Vocalist — Paul Brandt

Best Video — David Usher, *Forestfire*

Best R&B/Soul Recording — Deborah Cox, **One Wish**

Best Rap Recording — Rascalz featuring Choclair, Kardinal, Offishall, Thrust and Checkmate, **Northern Touch**

Best Instrumental — Natalie MacMaster, **My Roots Are Showing**

From left: Juno Award winners Rufus Wainwright, Colin James and Melanie Doane show off their awards for best alternative album, best producer, and best new solo artist respectively. The three were presented with their Junos during the untelevised portion of the March 7 ceremony at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton.

Photos by Christine Morgan

Better than watching it on television

Backstage at the Junos not overly glamorous, but lots of fun

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

"You're all waiting for Celine Dion, aren't you?" said Johnny Favourite of the Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra.

The group had just picked up a Juno for Best New Group. They were facing the relatively apathetic room of media backstage that all Juno winners were paraded through.

"OK, we understand. We'll get our asses out of here. Sorry to bother you, ladies and gentlemen of the media," joked Favourite.

"Oooh, look at me, I'm with a big newspaper! I don't have time for you," he continued.

"C'mon, folks, give us a break! Even if you're not going to write it down, ask a question for God's sake!"

Favourite got some laughs and succeeded in shaming the press into asking a few questions, but he was right — everyone was waiting for Celine Dion.

Before Dion showed up, artists like the Watchmen, Ashley MacIsaac, David Usher and Geddy Lee were spotted roaming the halls of Hamilton's Copps Coliseum.

Journalists from across Canada converged upon the press room. Everyone from Cogeco cable to MuchMusic were on hand to report on the event.

The facilities were floor to ceiling concrete — not an overly glamorous setting. Jonathan Torrens, co-host of the pre-broadcast awards, joked his dressing room smelled like pee.

During a commercial break, satellite communication was established with Barenaked Ladies in Australia and the audio could be heard in the press room.

Host Mike Bullard asked who was calling, and Ladies singer/guitarist Ed Robertson said "Umm, it's the Crash Test Dummies."

It was all a little underwhelming compared to when Dion and her entourage made their appearance in the press room. Dozens of photographers clamored to get a shot of her and reporters lined up to ask about her planned career hiatus.

Bullard later took Dion's place in front of the mike, tux jacket off and drinking a bottle of water. More than two hours of hosting duties didn't affect his game. He was still sharp, joking with the then-thinning pack of journalists.

By 12:30 a.m. the press room had been abandoned and the hallway traffic had slowed down. Almost everyone had headed out to party, meet deadlines, or just go home and wait to do it all again next year.